

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 5 and 14, amend claims 1, 6-11 and 15-18 and add new claims 19 and 20 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method comprising the steps of:
connecting a call between a calling party and called party;
consulting a calling party billing list to determining whether the calling party has authorized alternative billing treatment for the call; and
if the calling party has authorized alternative billing treatment, generating a billing record to bill the calling party according to the alternative billing treatment;
if the calling party has not authorized alternative billing treatment:
consulting a called party billing list to determining whether the called party has authorized alternative billing treatment for the call; and
if the called party has authorized alternative billing treatment, generating a billing record to bill the called party according to the alternative billing treatment.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, if the calling party has authorized alternative billing treatment:
sending a message to one or both of the calling party and called party indicating that the calling party is being billed for the call according to the alternative billing treatment.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the call comprises a wireless call having a plurality of call legs, the alternative billing treatment comprising an authorization to charge one or more of airtime minutes and monetary charges for each of the call legs to the calling party.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of consulting the calling party billing list comprises:

identifying a directory number associated with the called party, defining a called party directory number;

determining if the called party directory number is present in the calling party billing list, a presence of the called party directory number in the calling party billing list indicating that the calling party has authorized alternative billing treatment.

Claim 5 (canceled).

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 5, further comprising, if the called party has authorized alternative billing treatment:

sending a message to one or both of the calling party and called party indicating that the called party is being billed for the call according to the alternative billing treatment.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 5, wherein the call comprises a wireless call having a plurality of call legs, the alternative billing treatment comprising an authorization to charge one or more of airtime minutes and monetary charges for each of the call legs to the called party.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 5, wherein the call comprises a wireline call, the alternative billing treatment comprising an authorization to bill monetary charges associated with the wireline call to the called party.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 5, wherein the step of consulting the called party billing list comprises:

identifying a directory number associated with the calling party, defining a calling party directory number;

determining if the calling party directory number is present in the called party billing list, a presence of the calling party directory number in the called party billing list indicating that the called party has authorized alternative billing treatment.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 5, further comprising, if the calling party has not authorized alternative billing treatment, generating a billing record for the call according to customary practice.

11. (currently amended) A method comprising the steps of:
receiving billing information associated with a call between a calling party and called party;

consulting a calling party billing list to determining whether the calling party has authorized alternative billing treatment for the call; and

if the calling party has authorized alternative billing treatment, generating a billing record to bill the calling party according to the alternative billing treatment;

if the calling party has not authorized alternative billing treatment:

consulting a called party billing list to determining whether the called party has authorized alternative billing treatment for the call; and

if the called party has authorized alternative billing treatment, generating a billing record to bill the called party according to the alternative billing treatment.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the call comprises a wireless call having a plurality of call legs, the alternative billing treatment comprising an authorization to charge one or more of airtime minutes and monetary charges for each of the call legs to the calling party.

13. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of consulting the calling party billing list comprises:

identifying a directory number associated with the called party, defining a called party directory number;

determining if the called party directory number is present in the calling party billing list, a presence of the called party directory number in the calling party billing list indicating that the calling party has authorized alternative billing treatment.

Claim 14 (canceled).

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 14, wherein the call comprises a wireless call having a plurality of call legs, the alternative billing treatment comprising an authorization to charge one or more of airtime minutes and monetary charges for each of the call legs to the called party.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 14, wherein the call comprises a wireline call, the alternative billing treatment comprising an authorization to bill monetary charges associated with the wireline call to the called party.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 14, wherein the step of consulting the called party billing list comprises:

identifying a directory number associated with the calling party, defining a calling party directory number;

determining if the calling party directory number is present in the called party billing list, a presence of the calling party directory number in the called party billing list indicating that the called party has authorized alternative billing treatment.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 14, further comprising, if the calling party has not authorized alternative billing treatment, generating a billing record for the call according to customary practice.

19. (new) A method comprising the steps of:
connecting a call between a calling party and called party;
consulting a called party billing list to determining whether the called party has authorized alternative billing treatment for the call;
if the called party has authorized alternative billing treatment, generating a billing record to bill the called party according to the alternative billing treatment;
if the called party has not authorized alternative billing treatment:
consulting a calling party billing list to determining whether the calling party has authorized alternative billing treatment for the call; and
if the calling party has authorized alternative billing treatment, generating a billing record to bill the calling party according to the alternative billing treatment.

20. (new) A method comprising the steps of:
receiving billing information associated with a call between a calling party and called party;
consulting a called party billing list to determining whether the called party has authorized alternative billing treatment for the call;
if the called party has authorized alternative billing treatment, generating a billing record to bill the called party according to the alternative billing treatment;
if the called party has not authorized alternative billing treatment:
consulting a calling party billing list to determining whether the calling party has authorized alternative billing treatment for the call; and
if the calling party has authorized alternative billing treatment, generating a billing record to bill the calling party according to the alternative billing treatment.